

Who are the Children?

All kinds of children in Washington State
need a parent like you.

Older children

Able-bodied children

Not-so-able-bodied children

Children with brothers and sisters

Smart children

Children with learning disabilities

Native American children

Latino children

African American children

On any given day, about 11,000 children are
in the State foster care system. All of them
need families.



Become a foster
family!

WANTED: FAMILIES

What is Fostering?

A foster family is a person or family group licensed to provide temporary care to children who are in the custody of the state or a private agency. The basic costs of the child's food, clothing, medical and other needs are paid by the state. A child may stay with a foster family for a short time, or for years.



What Kinds of Foster Care Are There?

Receiving: Short-term or emergency care.

Respite: Short-term time-off for foster parents.

Long-term: For children who must stay in care for many years

Specialized: For children such as drug-affected infants, sexually abused youths and behaviorally or emotionally disturbed.

What About Relatives?

Relatives of children coming into the system are encouraged to become temporary care providers, foster parents, guardians or adoptive parents.

Contact the local Division of Children and Family Services office to learn more about helping a child who is related to you and coming into the system.

Who can Foster Children?

- Single or married
- Male or female
- All races
- All religions
- Homeowners or renters
- Self-supporting income
- Over 18 years old
- Able to pass a criminal background check

What is Guardianship?

Guardianship is the permanent, legal transfer of all Guardianship responsibilities from one person to another. Guardianship parents have the same rights and responsibilities as do parents of birth children.

How do You Become a Foster or Guardian Family?

1. Call 1-888-794-1794 to get information.
2. Register for one of the classes to learn about the children, your responsibilities and the different agencies you can work with.
3. Turn in your application to the State or a private agency.
4. A social worker contacts you to begin a homestudy that includes a series of visits to your home, completing some paperwork and an assessment of your family.
5. You get a foster care license or approval for guardianship. Your social worker begins looking for a match between you and a child.
6. Families go to court to finalize guardianship.

Contact Us!

For more information about becoming a foster parent, please call:

Toll Free

1 (888) 794-1794

Families & Kids
recruitment resources

